

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03

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EB/CBA/OCA/BR:IAWILLIAMSON

COMMERCE:FOCWIEJA

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R 112231Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 225284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, MA, US

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR DEPARTMENT'S INTERVENTION WITH
SHIPPING LINES TO RESUME DIRECT SERVICE FROM U.S
TO MADAGASCAR

REFS: (A) MENDENHALL/SEARKY LETTER OF 8/28/74

(B) TANANARIVE 1485 (C) BRESLER/ELFERS LETTER OF
9/27/74

1. DURING MEETING WITH MOORE MCCORMACK VICE PRESIDENT
JAMES CROWLEY AND WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM
MADISON ON ANOTHER SUBJECT ON OCTOBER 3 DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY ASKED IF MOORE MCCORMACK
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN REINSTITUTING DIRECT SERVICE TO
TAMATAVE. CROWLEY EXPLAINED HIGH COSTS OF OPERATING
SHIPS AND NEED FOR SIZABLE CARGO TO JUSTIFY DETOUR TO
TAMATAVE.

2. ON OCTOBER 2 AND 3 AF COMMERCIAL COORDINATOR CALLED
ON MR. CHARLES MOORE (GENERAL TRAFFIC MANAGER OF MOORE
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MCCORMACK) IN NEW YORK AND DRAWING ON REFS A AND B, URGED

HIM TO CONSIDER RESUMING DIRECT SERVICE TO MADAGASCAR. MOORE STATED THAT IN PAST TAMATAVE PORT WAS CONGEDTED CAUSING EXPENSIVE DELAYS. HE NOTED THAT SHIPMENTS TO AFRICA HAVE PICKED UP CONSIDERABLY RECENTLY AND THAT MOORE - MCCORMACK HAS A SHORTAGE OF SHIPS. A RETURN TO

MADAGASCAR WOULD THEREFORE MEAN CURTAILING SERVICE ELSEWHERE. DEPARTMENT OFFICER EMPHASIZED THAT DUE TO NOW COMPLETED WORLD BANK PROJECT SHIPS NO LONGER NEED WAIT TO UNLOAD AT TAMATAVE. MOORE MCCORMACK TRAFFIC OFFICER SAID THAT THEY HAD SERVED MADAGASCAR FOR MANY YEARS AND HE WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING SERVICE TO TAMATAVE. HE NOTED THERE HAD BEEN PAUCITY OF CARGO OFFERINGS FOR MADAGASCAR. DEPARTMENT OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT CARGO OFFERINGS WOULD NO DOUBT INCREASE IF THERE WERE DIRECT SERVICE.

3. AF COMMERCIAL COORDINATOR ALSO CALLED ON TRAFFIC MANAGER OF FARRELL LINES AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY CONSIDER INSTITUTING DIRECT SERVICE TO TAMATAVE. FARRELL TRAFFIC MANAGER REPLIED THAT HIS COMPANY WAS NOT INTERESTED IN PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICE TO MADAGASCAR AT THIS TIME BECAUSE ITS SHIPS WERE ALREADY FULLY BOOKED. HE ALSO COMPLAINED OF CONGESTION AND INEFFICIENCY IN MANY AFRICAN POSTS CAUSING LONG AND COSTLY DELAYS IN PORT.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MOORE MCCORMACK. INGERSOLL

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